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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

The Lone Ranger: The Death of Zorro

Lone Ranger Dons New Role as Zorro's Avenger

Zorro and the Lone Ranger—two classic heroes of the Old West. Each of them has a decades-long history in pulps, comic strips, films, television series, and comics... but until now, the two have never met.

And oddly enough, they never will—not even in the crossover limited series featuring both heroes!

The Lone Ranger: The Death of Zorro will star both characters, but they never quite meet... because it is the death of one hero that causes the other to embark on a quest for justice.

One of comicdom's first and greatest heroes, Zorro, will sacrifice his life to save his people. Upon learning of this tragedy, the future hero of the Wild West, The Lone Ranger, ventures into Old California to avenge the death.

As writer *Ande Parks* explained, "Zorro dies early in the series, but that's not the end of the Zorro presence in this book. We see Zorro in action in the first issue. It's not wise for Don Diego to strap on his sword again at his advanced age (he's in his mid-sixties as our story opens), but he's never been a man who can do nothing in the face of a horrible injustice."

Is it safe to assume, then, that we'll see more of Zorro in flashback as the series progresses? "Yeah, we get a little bit of Zorro flashback action... the hero in his prime," Park said. "It's not the bulk of what our story is about, though. This ***Death of Zorro*** series is more concerned with the *legacy* of the hero."

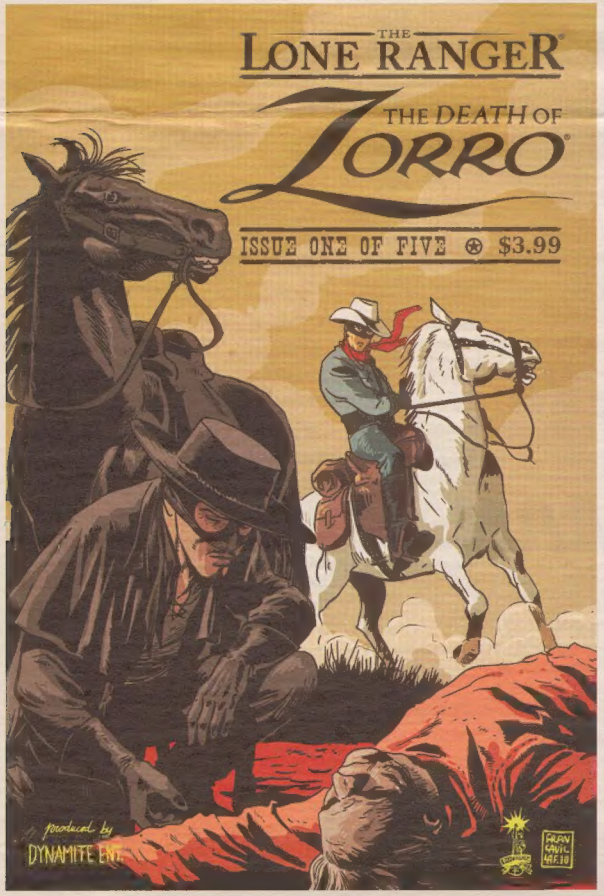
Was it tough to sell the Zorro rights-holders on a story that features the demise of the legendary hero? "It was actually a very easy sell to the Zorro rights holders because they saw what the story could be," Dynamite publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "They loved the fact that the hero goes into his final battle 'Into The Light Brigade'... that there would be someone to avenge his death allowed them to feel that his legacy would live forever, and they thought the Lone Ranger was the perfect hero to do that.

"It took a little bit longer to convince the Lone Ranger rights holders. We had to show them the timeline, how it worked. We had to do it with Zorro as well, but it took a little bit more of a push with the Lone Ranger rights holders. They have a lot going on with the upcoming movie, so they wanted to make sure that this part of the entertainment business did not conflict with the *other* part of the entertainment business they were working on. At the end of the day, we were able to pull it all together and are very happy with the story. We hope it will be a timeless tale."

Barrucci explained that the concept for the story originated in Dynamite's offices. "This one was a hare-brained idea I had. I threw it out there, and there was concern—but once we talked through it, everyone in the office thought it could work; it was all about finding the right storyteller. Ande is the right storyteller. Having worked with him on ***Kevin Smith's Kato*** and a few other projects that are upcoming, having read the work that he's done with Oni Press including ***Capote***, we knew that he could excel at showing the emotion, showing the depth of the characters and make it viable for today's audience."

When does ***The Death of Zorro*** take place, and exactly how do the careers of the two heroes overlap? "Our story is set in 1870," Park said. "With just a little fudging of the current Dynamite timelines, we can portray Zorro as an older man and The Lone Ranger as a young crusader."

"In our timeline, Zorro is in his late 60's and the Lone Ranger is in his early 20's," Barrucci added. "***The Adventures of Zorro*** has been suggested and pretty much established since the 1820's-30's, and we've established that Lone Ranger takes place during the Civil War in the 1860's. Factoring those two timelines together, it works out perfectly."



"People familiar with the graphic novels I've written know that I'm fond of using research to enrich my stories," Park said. "This ***Zorro/Lone Ranger*** series is no exception. When Nick asked me about writing this story, I knew right away that I wanted to find a bigger historical context in which to place the death of this iconic hero.

"Of course, our story is about Zorro, the Lone Ranger, and the legacy of a hero. It also deals with the dying Chumash Indian culture of the time. The Chumash were a real tribe that thrived in Southern California before the Spanish arrived. Our story finds the Chumash just barely clinging to a hard life in an abandoned Spanish mission. When someone tries to take even that hard life away from the Chumash, Zorro gets involved.

"The Lone Ranger and Tonto find themselves with two reasons to act after Zorro's death: vengeance for a legendary figure who has fallen to men without honor, and saving the lives of innocents. Anyone familiar with The Lone Ranger knows he will never tolerate brutality aimed at women and children."

Have the Lone Ranger and Zorro ever met in the past, as far as this series' continuity is concerned? "Let's just say that there *is* a connection," Park said. "A *vital* one. I think that's all I should give away."

Isn't Zorro's base of operations pretty far from the Lone Ranger's home turf? "Yeah, Southern California *is* new ground for The Lone Ranger," Park agreed. "We don't dwell on it, but he's there initially because he's still pursuing a member of the Cavendish gang.

"I always loved that The Ranger was a master of disguise, so we use that a bit. While disguised, he hears that Zorro may have been murdered. As Zorro was compelled to act to help the Chumash, The Lone Ranger is compelled to investigate—and possibly avenge—the murder of Zorro."

What supporting characters will play a part in this storyline? Will either hero's adversaries make an appearance? "No, the villains in this story are new: a regiment of renegade Civil War bushwhackers," Park said. "There are some significant supporting heroes in the book. Matt Wagner used a secret group of European crime fighters known as La Justicia in his Zorro book. They were originally created by *Isabel Allende* in her Zorro novel. We're integrating them into our story, as well. I don't want to say too much about them, but they're cool—a lot of fun to write."

This sounds very much like a Lone Ranger solo story built on Zorro's murder; is there more to it than that? "When Zorro dies and The Lone Ranger appears in our first issue, this is *not* a Lone Ranger solo story," Park explained. "***The Death of Zorro*** is about legacy. It's about how good deeds resonate... how they shoot out into the world like rays of sunlight through a prism. All actions have consequences. The actions of a good man who will not just stand by and watch injustice can have consequences that literally change the world. Zorro leaves an amazing legacy of good deeds. We're going to look at how those good deeds affect others, even after Zorro's death.

"And there's also fighting—*lots* of cool fighting."

Park stresses that the death of Zorro is "no ruse... This story represents one possible future for the character. I don't think we're saying that this is *definitely* the way Zorro dies. It's just a possibility. As *Alan Moore* so famously said, it's an imaginary story... aren't they all?"

Are there any worries that the revelation of a definitive end to Zorro's career might lessen the suspense in the ***Zorro*** series? "I don't think so," Barrucci said. "I've read, ***Hulk: The End***, ***The Dark Knight Returns***, "Whatever Happened to the Man of Tomorrow?" by *Alan Moore* in ***Action Comics #583***, with *Curt Swan* and *George Perez* art. I think I've read dozens of stories of heroes at the end of their careers yet I still find the adventures and the journey of what got them there to be fascinating, interesting, and fun. I think that, if anything, it shows you that the character traits that made Zorro a hero endured throughout his long life and didn't waiver."

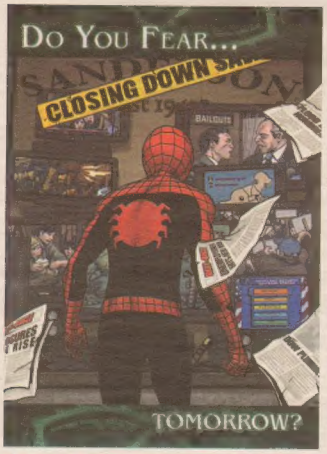
Will this series mark the end of either the ***Zorro*** or the ***Lone Ranger*** franchise at Dynamite? "Not at all," Barrucci said. "We are going to continue with a new ***Lone Ranger*** series following this, and we have ***Zorro*** with *Matt Wagner* coming back with another twelve-issue run. We love both these characters; they have a lot of life in them. We've worked to give them the tender loving care that they deserve. We've been very fortunate to have Brett *Matthews*, *John Cassaday*, & *Sergio Cariello* on ***The Lone Ranger*** and *Matt Wagner, Francesco Francavilla, & Cezar Razek* on ***Zorro*** and we plan on continuing both series. This is just a great crossover that needed to be told, and we are very fortunate to be the company who gets to tell the story.

"All I can say is Zorro will ride again and there will be another Hi-Yo-Silver!"

The Lone Ranger: The Death of Zorro #1, the kickoff issue of a five-part miniseries, is slated for March release; the first issue will feature covers by *Alex Ross* and professional wrestling icon-turned-artist, *Jerry "The King" Lawler*, as well as *Francesco Francavilla* and *Tom Yeates*.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!



COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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Marvel Ventures Into Fear

After releasing a series of teaser images to pique readers' interest, Marvel has officially pulled the wrappings off their next big event, ***Fear Itself***. The story will launch in March with the ***Fear Itself Prologue*** by *Ed Brubaker & Scot Eaton;* from there, it'll continue in the April-launching seven-part ***Fear Itself*** limited series by *Matt Fraction & Stuart Immonen*. And of course, there'll be oodles of Marvel Universe tie-ins throughout the 2011, just as was the case with ***Siege, Civil War,*** and ***Secret Invasion***. Of course, fans can read just the core series and get a complete story—but the tie-ins will expand on and enrich the events of ***Fear Itself***.

"It's a great time to be fearful," Marvel editor-in-chief *Joe Quesada* said. "The world has gotten smaller, and fear, above all else, seems to be a great motivator. There is no shortage of frauds, charlatans, and despots looking to fan the fire."

"What happens when fear is so prevalent that it seems the norm?" Quesada asked rhetorically? He said that, before it's all over, the lines between hero and villain will be not only blurred, but in some cases crossed.

According to writer *Matt Fraction*, the Marvel heroes will be fighting the god of fear. "You will not feel under-served on any level," Fraction said. "We are going to be busting the doors down with the biggest story we've ever told."

Editor *Tom Brevoort* said that, in response to fan requests, Marvel has held off from any linewide big event stories for the past year, but now they're back with a saga that promises to be at least as big as ***Civil War***. It all begins with "a concealed act at the center of the Marvel universe that was committed a number of years ago, and it will change everything," Brevoort said. "And that, in essence, is what ***Fear Itself*** is all about."

Editor *Axel Alonso* described ***Fear Itself*** as "an extinction-level event... that involves *everyone*!. You can expect participation from X-Men, from Dracula ... and you'll witness alliances you wouldn't have expected."

"Whatever's left of the Fantastic Four after the deathbag issue, they will be involved, too," Brevoort added.

Brevoort went on to explain that some elements of ***Fear Itself*** were subtly introduced into the Marvel Universe beginning a year and a half to two years ago, but he didn't give any details on what those elements were or where they appeared.

Fear Itself ##1 will be an oversized book with approximately 45 pages of story; the last issue of the series should also be oversized. Look for the series premiere in early April.

Boom Goes Multiversal With Elric

It was almost five decades ago that award-winning author *Michael Moorcock* first introduced his wan swordwielder Elric of Melniboné; a few years later, Elric made a memorable appearance in the pages of Marvel's ***Conan the Barbarian***.

This May, Elric will make a return to comics—and to make sure that no one missed out on the excitement, Boom Studios is launching their ***Elric: The Balance Lost*** series with a Free Comic Book Day Edition that features an original prequel story to the new miniseries.

Moorcock, acclaimed for his work in science fiction and fantasy and for his complex Multiverse concept, has been described by *Neil Gaiman* as "my model for what a writer was," while *Warren Ellis* said he is one of the "eight core sites in my creative genome."

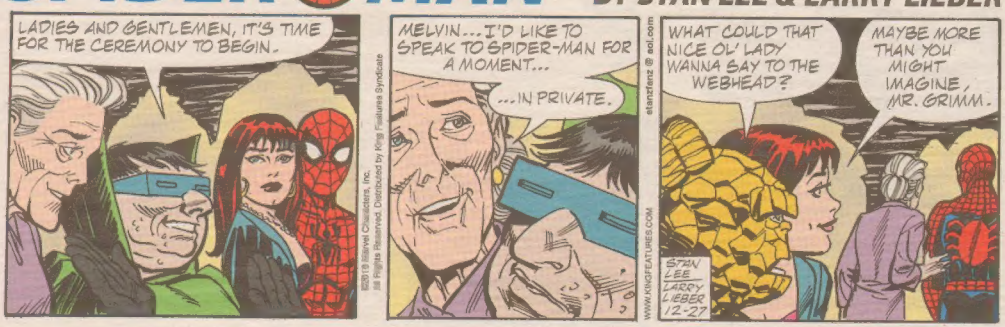
Superman, Stan Lee's Starborn, and ***iZombie*** writer *Chris Roberson* writes the series based on Elric and the Multiverse saga—and that means that it will star not only Elric but also Corum and Hawkmoon in a mammoth epic that uses Moorcock's fascinating and intricate Multiverse as its tapestry, ***Elric: The Balance Lost #1*** follows the May prequel and premieres as a full-blown series in July.

"Publishing *Michael Moorcock's* ***Elric*** feels like a dream come true," Editor-in-Chief *Matt Gagnon* said. "Even more so when Michael is as enthused as we are about the revival of one of his most classic creations. This year will be fifty years since the creation of Elric, and Boom Studios aims to live up to the standard and tradition that *Michael Moorcock* has set."

Elric: The Balance Lost features the return of Moorcock's legendary Multiverse, involving some of the greatest fantasy characters of all time: Elric of Melniboné, Corum of the Scarlet Robe, and Dorian Hawkmoon in a brand-new story that will test the courage of the Eternal Champion!

In this new series, the workings of Fate are being tampered with across the Multiverse, upsetting the Cosmic Balance. Elric of Melniboné must preserve the Balance and save the entire Multiverse from ruin. But no sooner has his journey begun than he is waylaid by dark forces and lost on the Moonbeam Roads. Elric finds himself stranded on a world where Chaos holds sway and where change is the only constant. Heroes are

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S TIME FOR THE CEREMONY TO BEGIN.
MELVIN... I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO SPIDER-MAN FOR A MOMENT...
...IN PRIVATE.
WHAT COULD THAT NICE OL' LADY WANNA SAY TO THE WEBHEAD?
MAYBE MORE THAN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, MR. GRIMM.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-27
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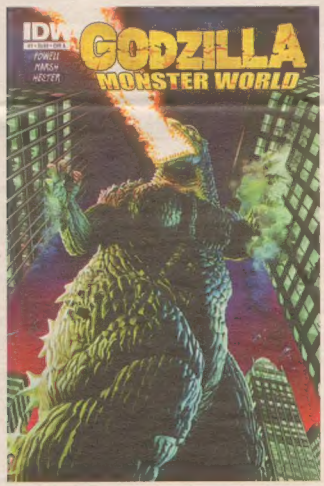
forced into action far and wide, but will they fight on the side of Law or Chaos?

"Elric is in inspired hands. I'm enthusiastically looking forward to his appearance from Boom Studios," Moorcock said. "One of the best writers of his generation, *Chris Roberson*, will be writing a brilliantly conceived, entirely new Elric story in the grand manner! I can't wait!"

Elric: The Balance Lost Free Comic Book Day Edition will be available on Saturday, May 7th; it leads directly into July's ***Elric: The Balance Lost #1.***



IDW's Off to See the Lizard!

The big daddy of Japanese monsters is making his way back to the US—and he's targeting comic shops!

In conjunction with Toho Co., Ltd., IDW is kicking off an all-new ***Godzilla*** comic book series, ***Godzilla: Monster World,*** the first ongoing Godzilla project in years. The big green guy will be joined by many other monsters throughout the series, including Mothra, King Ghidorah, Rodan, and more.

"Godzilla has been gone from comics for too long" *Yukio Kotaki* of Toho said. "And to have it return with other monsters is simply very exciting."

Godzilla is helmed by an impressive creative team that includes co-writers *Eric Powell & Tracy Marsh* and artist *Phil Hester.* The series will feature not one but two painted covers, offered on a 50/50 basis: *Eric Powell* will provide a gatefold wraparound cover featuring many beloved Toho monsters, while fan-favorite artist *Alex Ross* contributes an imposing image of Godzilla. Powell has also painted a separate incentive cover for the debut issue.

"To be able to launch a ***Godzilla*** series that features many fan-favorite Toho monsters never before seen in comics is gratifying enough," said *Chris Ryall,* IDW's Chief Creative Officer. "But to do it with the guiding hand and brush of *Eric Powell*—as perfectly suited a creator as I could've hoped to come aboard here—along with Hester, Marsh, and Ross, is about as monstrous a line-up as I could've ever hoped for. What's more, this is just the first series to come in the line. The next one out of the gates features multiple Eisner-nominees and winners handling the creative, so we're well and truly just getting started here."

With an impressive cast of monsters both old and new, IDW's series will treat fans to both familiar themes and original takes on the pop culture legends that have stomped, smashed, and fought their way across movie screens for over four decades.

Godzilla: Monster World #1 is slated for March release.

Marvel's CrossGen Ruse Is Revealed

Ruse is returning from Marvel—and that's *not* a ruse!

Last summer, Marvel dropped some references to a CrossGen initiative that was in development, and now we know that Marvel's CrossGen relaunch begins in March with the release of two titles: ***Ruse*** and ***Sigil.***

Even better, Marvel has enlisted co-creator *Mark Waid* to continue the ***Ruse*** saga in its four-issue-miniseries return. Waid's ***Ruse*** is a steampunk mystery series starring Simon Archard, the world's greatest detective. When he crosses paths with the enigmatic Emma Bishop, however, the smartest man may have met his equal… and find himself embroiled in the greatest mystery of his career! The series features art by *Mirco Pierfederici.*

The second Crossgen return, ***Sigil,*** is written by *Mike Carey* with art by *Leonard Kirk.* In the war for forever, time is only a small obstacle as the greatest warriors jump from century to century to ensure victory! Enter Samantha Rey, a 16 year old girl from present-day South Carolina who discovers a mysterious symbol on her chest granting her the power to turn the tide of this war. But will she save us or damn all of creation?

These books will be appearing under a Crossgen imprint, and it appears that they are the first in a series of Crossgen returns planned for 2011. "Featuring some of today's most acclaimed talents and crossing all genres, Crossgen brings Marvel's incomparable storytelling sensibilities to new characters, new concepts and new audiences," Marvel said in its press release.

"Crossgen is one of the biggest comic book imprint launches this century," said *David Gabriel,* SVP of Sales & Circulation. "You've seen Marvel redefine super heroes and now we're taking on every popular genre you can imagine, with some of the most unique and compelling new series you'll find in 2011, each priced at only $2.99 per issue. You've never read Marvel comics like these!"

Coming Comics—DC in March

Lex Luthor has left no stone unturned in his quest for the Black Lantern energy, but he's not the only one searching for it – Brainiac wants the energy and the knowledge it offers all to himself. *Paul Cornell & Pete Woods* present the most vicious Luthor/Brainiac team-up ever in ***Action Comics #899.*** It all sets the stage for both a conclusion and a beginning in next month's historic ***Action #900,*** featuring the return of you-know-who…

Azrael reaches the end of his pilgrimage in ***Azrael #18,*** the series finale—but he still has to face the native threat of the zealous Fireball!

Marc Guggenheim & Jerry Bingham conclude the five-part "Super Powers" *and* the ***Batman Confidential*** series in ***BC #54.*** The finale reveals the final outcome for Bruce Wayne's revelatory journey from driven loner to the young Batman who would be able to work side-by-side with the other heroes of the DC Universe!

Batman and the Justice League thought they were prepared for anything, but they didn't expect the all-new Matter Master! How can they defeat a desperate man with complete control over the laws of physics and nothing left to lose? Find out in ***Batman Beyond #3*** by *Adam Beechen, Ryan Benjamin, & John Stanisci.*

Etrigan the Demon's loyalties are stretched to their breaking point, and when he chooses sides, an epic battle ensues with Batman in *David Finch's* ***Batman: The Dark Knight #4.*** The victor can only be decided with the help of a new friend, but there's no time to spare for infighting, because Gotham City is being overrun by a demon horde…

Diego Latorre supplies the painted art over *Giuseppe Camuncoli's* layouts in ***Batman: Europa #3,*** cowritten by *Brian Azzarello & Matteo Casali.* Coming closer to death's door with every step and weakened by a mysterious virus, Batman arrives in Paris searching for answers behind his illness. But with The Joker as a "travel buddy," Batman's guaranteed to face unexpected and terrifying challenges!

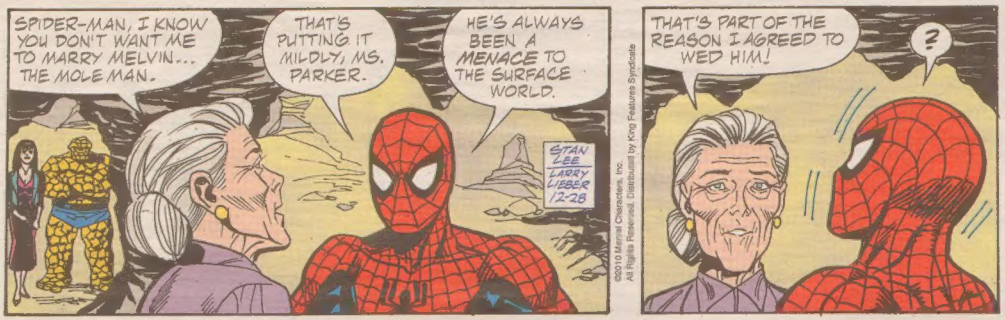
Batman's Argentinean adventure concludes in *Grant Morrison & Yanick Paquette's* ***Batman Incorporated #5*** as The Dark Knight and Gaucho fight to the death to save the lives of countless innocents. Meanwhile, England's other Batman, The Hood, stumbles across a monstrous conspiracy – can Batman and his international allies stop a plot that threatens to transform the whole world?

After a couple of months off, *Neal Adams* is back at it with ***Batman: Odyssey #7.*** To save his own life from the deadliest assassin on Earth, Ra's al Ghul must turn to the only man on Earth who has the skills to save him: Batman. But if Batman's going to try protecting Ra's from an assassin who's more than willing to kill, The Dark Knight will also have to learn to kill – and Ra's is training him!

The sequel to "Heart of Hush" concludes in *Paul Dini & Dustin Nguyen's* ***Batman: Streets of Gotham #21,*** the final issue of the series. The life of Tommy Elliot takes a shocking new turn as secrets are revealed, lives are torn apart, and a deadly new villain rises to threaten the existence of Batman and his allies.

Gail Simone & Inaki Miranda present astonishing conclusion to "The Death of Oracle" in ***Birds of Prey #10,*** featuring nearly everyone whose life has been touched by Oracle – villain and hero! How will the DCU operate without its premier infojock, and how will this event affect the Birds of Prey?

In ***Brightest Day #s 21 & 22,*** the returned


SPIDER-MAN, I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT ME TO MARRY MELVIN... THE MOLE MAN.
THAT'S PUTTING IT MILDLY, MS. PARKER.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A MENACE TO THE SURFACE WORLD.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-28
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THAT'S PART OF THE REASON I AGREED TO WED HIM!
?

heroes and villains begin converging in one area as the ultimate protector reveals itself against the ultimate menace! The end of this year-long event is rapidly approaching—and when you see what *Geoff Johns & Peter Tomasi* have in the works, you'll realize why this is a must-read event!

Tony Bedard, Marv Wolfman, Howard Porter, Adriana Melo, & Livesay continue the comic based on the upcoming DCU online game in ***DC Universe Online Legends #s 3 & 4.*** In #3, Brainiac's assault on Earth begins with a first strike at Metropolis and The Man of Steel! But what are Brainiac's real motivations for attacking the Daily Planet? Then, in #4, while planning a counter-strike against Brainiac's ship, the JLA are ambushed on their satellite! And in the post-apocalyptic future, Luthor plots the greatest betrayal of all!

Scott Snyder & Jock kick off the three-part "Hungry City" in ***Detective Comics #875.*** It all begins when the corpse of a killer whale shows up on the floor of one of Gotham City's foremost banks...

The road to ***Flashpoint*** is paved with good intentions, but the Flash is about to learn the truth behind those good intentions — and the secret of Hot Pursuit—in *Geoff Johns & Francis Manapul's* ***Flash #11.***

Jeff Lemire & Mahmud Asrar present the conclusion to Ray Palmer's acclaimed story "Nucleus" in ***Giant-Size Atom #1,*** which also guest-stars Hawkman and Oracle.

In *J.T. Krul & Diogenes Neves'* ***Green Arrow #10,*** something terrible stirs within the forest and Oliver Queen discovers his role in Star City. How will Green Arrow help pave the way for Earth's Protector?

Geoff Johns, Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy kick off "War of the Green Lanterns" in ***Green Lantern #64***—and this is the blockbuster event that'll burn into the summer! A malevolent force has usurped control over all the power batteries, leaving the Corps powerless except for a select few members. Now it's up to Hal Jordan,

Guy Gardner, Kyle Rayner, John Stewart and Sinestro to regain control – but can these warriors overcome their differences in time to save the universe?

Tony Bedard & Tyler Kirkham continue "War of the Green Lanterns" in ***Green Lantern Corps #58.*** The second installment features Kyle Rayner vs. John Stewart. From there ***Green Lantern: Emerald Warriors #8*** continues the drama as *Peter Tomasi, Fernando Pasarin, & Cam Smith* present the main event: Guy Gardner vs. Hal Jordan!

William Harms & Eric Nguyen launch a limited series based on the smash PlayStation 3 videogame with the release of ***inFamous #1.*** While delivering a mysterious package, bike courier Cole MacGrath is caught in a massive explosion that gives him electric superpowers. As his world collapses around him, Cole must defend himself and his city from government forces that'll stop at nothing to capture him.

The previously published installments of the Jimmy Olsen serial are combined with an unseen thirty-page conclusion in *Nick Spencer & R.B. Silva's* ***Jimmy Olsen #1,*** an 80-page oneshot. When Jimmy Olsen finds out that his ex-girlfriend, Chloe Sullivan, is spending a week writing a profile about a young big-shot LexCorp employee, Jimmy is determined to prove to Chloe that he can have just as exciting and interesting a week. Cue bar fights with drunken aliens, a visit to the Yarn Barn with Supergirl, Fifth Dimensional stalkers, and Jimmy Olsen: Space Warrior!

"The Rise of Eclipso" continues in ***Justice League of America #55*** by *James Robinson & Brett Booth.* With the Spectre fallen and darkness spread throughout the DC Universe, no one is safe from Eclipso's control! Not any of DCs shadow-based heroes and villains. Not Alan Scott and the magical beings of the moon's Emerald City. Not even the World's Greatest Heroes! And when Eclipso's ultimate goal is revealed, they'll see that it's scale is even bigger than the DC Universe...

JUSTICE LEAGUE: GENERATION LOST 21

In ***Justice League: Generation Lost #s 21 & 22,*** Beetle is dead, Max Lord has Checkmate, the hunt for Wonder Woman has begun, and the JLI is left without a leader. Can the JLI find Wonder Woman before Max finds her first? Along the way, Power Girl, Batman and one more former-JLI member will join the team – but will their combined efforts be enough?

Star Boy returns from the 21st century in ***Legion of Super-Heroes #11*** by *Paul Levitz & Yildiray Cinar.* And if that's not enough, Sensor Girl searches for Karate Kid, the team trails the escaped Legion of Super-Villains, and Saturn Girl seeks Harmonia Li's blood...

The 31st century team of psychopaths returns in ***Legion of Super-Villains #1*** by *Paul Levitz & Francis Portela.* Now led by Saturn Queen, they break out of the prison world Takron-Galtos to wreak havoc on the United Planets. This oneshot sets up a major 2011 storyline that no Legion fan will want to miss!

It's Outsider vs. Outsider in *Dan DiDio, Keith Giffen, & Scott Koblish's* ***Outsiders #38*** as Geo-Force is finally pushed to the edge when he learns Black Lightning and his team have invaded

Markovia in an attempt to overthrow Geo-Force's rule. This is a battle royal that not even Batman may be able to stop!

Gail Simone & J. Calafiore launch the 3-part "The Darkest House" in ***Secret Six #31.*** A member of the Secret Six attempts to bring back a fallen loved one by using the demonic "Get Out of Hell Free" card stolen back in the first arc of the series! And as it turns out, Hell wants the card back...

Hoorah! At long last, DC is collecting *Sheldon Mayer's* all-ages classic, beginning with ***Sugar & Spike Archives Volume 1 HC,*** reprinting the first ten issues of the series that stars a pair of toddler who can understand each other perfectly, even though all their parents seem to hear when they speak is "Glx sptzl glaah!"

Get ready for the first-ever Superboy / Kid Flash race in ***Superboy #5*** by *Jeff Lemire & Pier Gallo.* Bart Allen may have the speed, but Conner Kent has the power – who will win?!

In *Nick Spencer & Bernard Chang's* ***Supergirl #62,*** Robin, Static, Miss Martian, Blue Beetle, Batgirl, and the new Impulse team up with Supergirl and take on a new villain who promises to define this generation as much as Darkseid, Lex Luthor and The Joker did prior ones.

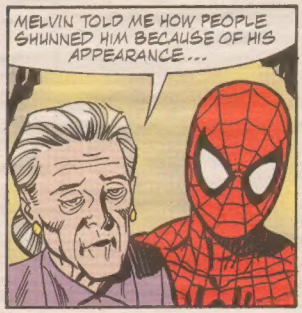
Superman visits Boulder, Colorado, as "Grounded" races forward in ***Superman #709*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Chris Roberson, Eddy Barrows, & J.P. Mayer.* And speaking of racing, here comes The Flash! The Scarlet Speedster has made a strange discovery that relates to Superman, so he tracks The Man of Steel down in the Centennial State to get some answers! What did Flash discover? Well, let's just say there's a reason Superman isn't very happy to see him…

In a near-death vision, Diana experiences the power of Dr. Psycho! But is he foe or friend? Meanwhile, hints of Wonder Woman's "normal" reality continue to pop up in ***Wonder Woman #609*** by *J. Michael Straczynski, Phil Hester, Don Kramer, & jay Leisten.*

The immortal David Kim – kept "alive" by nanotech enhancements – returns to the DC Universe in the ongoing ***Xombi*** by *John Rozum & Frazer Irving.* As an undying, unchanging Xombi, David Kim must watch the world consume itself and burn while humanity grows more distant from each other due to the rise of technology. What would a Xombi do just to feel change again?

DC collected editions (some of which are advance solicited for April and May release) include:

- ***Batman & Robin: Batman Must Die Deluxe Edition HC,*** collecting *Grant Morrison's* ***Batman & Robin #s 13-16*** and ***Batman: The Return #1.***
- ***Birds of Prey Volume 1: EndRun HC,*** collecting ***Birds of Prey #s 1-6.***
- ***Booster Gold: Past Imperfect TP,*** collecting ***Booster Gold #s 32-38.***
- ***Brightest Day Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Brightest Day #s 8-16.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Batman: Irresistible #1,*** collecting ***Legends of the Dark Knight #s 169-171*** and a tale from ***Hourman #22.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Night Force #1,*** collecting *Marv Wolfman & Gene Colan's* ***Night Force #s 1-4.***
- ***DC Comics Presents Superman/Doomsday #1,*** collecting ***Doomsday Annual #1*** and ***Superman #175.***
- ***Doc Savage: The Lords of Lightning TP,*** collecting ***Doc Savage #s 1-5.***
- ***DV8: Gods and Monsters TP,*** collecting the eight-issue limited series.
- ***Gotham City Sirens Volume 1: Union TP,*** collecting ***Gotham City Sirens #s 1-7.***
- ***Hitman Volume 5: Ace of Killers TP,*** collecting ***Hitman #s 15-22.***
- ***The Flash Omnibus by Geoff Johns HC,*** a 448-page volume collecting ***Flash #s 164-176, The Flash: Our Worlds at War, The Flash: Iron Heights,*** and ***The Flash Secret Files #3.***
- ***The Flash: Rebirth TP,*** collecting the six-part series by *Geoff Johns & Ethan Van Sciver.*
- ***Green Lantern Corps: Revolt of the Alpha Lanterns HC,*** collecting ***Green Lantern Corps #s 21-22 & 48-52.***


MELVIN TOLD ME HOW PEOPLE SHUNNED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS APPEARANCE...
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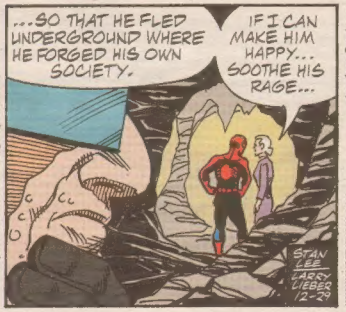
...SO THAT HE FLED UNDERGROUND WHERE HE FORGED HIS OWN SOCIETY.
IF I CAN MAKE HIM HAPPY... SOOTHE HIS RAGE...
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-2
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stanzdanz @ aol.com

•***Green Lantern: Secret Origin TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 29-35,*** along with pages from other ***Green Lantern*** collected editions designed to introduce readers to other volumes in the series and an introduction by *Ryan Reynolds,* star of Warner Bros. Pictures' ***Green Lantern*** major motion picture.

•***Jonah Hex: Tall Tales TP,*** collecting ***Jonah Hex #s 55-60.***

•***Our Army at War TP,*** collecting October's five war-comic oneshots, including the superb ***GI Combat #1.***

•***Red: Better R.E.D. Than Dead TP,*** collecting the four ***Red*** tie-in oneshots by ***Red*** co-creator *Cully Hamner* and others.

•***Superman: Codename Patriot TP,*** collecting ***Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen Special #2, Superman #691, Supergirl #44, Action #880,*** and ***World of New Krypton #6.***

•***Superman/Batman: Worship TP,*** collecting ***Superman/Batman #s 72-75*** and ***Superman/Batman Annual #4.***

•***Showcase Presents Green Lantern Volume 5 TP,*** collecting ***Green Lantern #s 76-100.***

•***Time Masters: Vanishing Point TP,*** collecting the six-part series that ties in to ***The Return of Bruce Wayne*** and the upcoming ***Flashpoint.***

AMERICAN VAMPIRE 13

Coming Comics—Vertigo/DC in March

Scott Snyder & Rafael Albuquerque kick off a story arc set in World War II in *American Vampire #13.* The tale of heroism and horror begins in Hawaii in 1944. For nearly two decades, Henry Preston and his wife, American Vampire Pearl Jones, have tried to live a quiet life. But with war raging overseas, Henry feels he can no longer live in the shadows, and makes a deal to join a covert mission to a remote Japanese island—an island inhabited by an enemy far more dangerous than any Axis powers. It's the war in the Pacific like you've never seen it before with Pearl, Henry and Skinner Sweet at the heart of it all and more fangs and blood than ever before.

Jeff Lemire invites several friends to visit his world of ***Sweet Tooth*** for the 19th issue. *Matt Kindt, Nate Powell, & Emi Lenox* contribute stories for this very special standalone issue. As the three female characters of ***Sweet Tooth*** go off to collect firewood for the night, we see glimpses of their past, all of which reveal something more about the mysterious plague that decimated America.

Vertigo collected editions (advance solicited for April and May release) include:

•***Absolute Promethea Book Three HC,*** an oversized slipcased volume collecting ***Promethea #s 24-32*** by *Alan Moore & J.H.Williams III.* This new oversized, slipcased collection includes the dazzling final issue of the series, as well as the "Little Margie" stories illustrated by *Eric Shanower,* plus *Chris Sprouse's* version of the end of the world Promethea shared with other ABC heroes from ***Tom Strong #36.*** (This volume is advance solicited by August release.)

•***American Vampire Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***American Vampire #s 6-11.***

•***Area 10 TP,*** a softcover edition of the original graphic novel by *Christos Gage & Chris Samnee.*

•***Fables Volume 15: Rose Red TP,*** collecting ***Fables #s 94-100.***

•***Other Lives TP,*** a softcover edition of the original graphic novel by *Peter Bagge.*

•***Sandman Volume 5: A Game of You TP (New Edition),*** collecting ***Sandman #s 32-37*** in a stylish new trade dress.

•***Transmetropolitan Volume 9: The Cure TP (New Edition),*** collecting ***Transmet #s 49-54.***

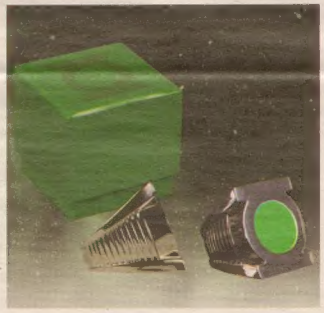
•***Vertigo Resurrected: Finals #1,*** collecting the four-issue miniseries by *Will Pfeifer & Jill Thompson.*

Coming from DC Direct

DC Direct's ***Brightest Day*** action figure line continues with ***Brightest Day Series 3 Action Figures,*** which includes ***Jade, Aqualad, Dove,*** and ***Hawk.*** Look for them in August.

Blackest Night continues in mini-bust form with August's release of ***Heroes of the DC Universe: Blackest Night—Blue Lantern Saint Walker Bust,*** sculpted by *Jean St. Jean* based on art by *Doug Mahnke.* The sculpture features Saint Walker atop a special base that displays the spectrum of Lantern symbols.

DC Direct continues its line of 1:4 scale power battery and ring sets with the release of the ***Blackest Night: Blue Lantern 1:4 Scale Power Battery and Ring Prop Replica Set.*** The Blue Lantern 1:4 Scale Power Battery and the Blue Power Ring sit in a translucent blue display and are removable from the stand. Both light up, featuring manual on/off switches; the ring will light up when worn. The set is slated for August release.



The ***Green Lantern Honor Guard Ring Prop Replica,*** originally slated for 2010 release, has been rescheduled for late March. Cast in silver metal with a green enamel inlay, the ring also features decorative ridges around the band. The ring comes packaged in a two-part box foil-stamped with the Green Lantern logo and with protective foam inside. This will be produced in a limited edition of only 2100 pieces.

The latest addition to the ***JLA Trophy Room*** series of props is the ***Red Lantern Power Battery***

Prop Replica. This full-scale prop replica power battery measures approximately 10.25" high (minus the handle) x 11.5" wide x 10" deep, is made of resin, and comes with a red power ring that lights up the lantern.

Jim Lee's art is the inspiration for the 7" tall ***DC Universe Online Statue: Zatanna*** and ***DC Universe Online Statue: Solomon Grundy,*** both of which are based on Lee's designs for Sony Entertainment's Massively Multi-Player Online Game.

Tim Bruckner's high-energy statue line continues with the ***DC Dynamics Joker Statue.*** This sculpture depicts the Joker surrounded by a cloud of smoke, delighting in his maniacal mischief as he throws Joker bombs about. (August)

DC Direct adds two more offerings to its ***Ame-Comi Heroine Series*** with the addition of ***Wonder Woman (V.3),*** designed by *Jim Fletcher* and sculpted by *Jonathan Matthews;* and ***Big Barda,*** designed by *Jim Fletcher & Jon Buran* and sculpted by *Jonathan Matthews.* (August)

Coming Comics—Marvel in March

An era without X-Men? An era when mutants must create their own stronghold for their dying race? You'll find it all in ***Age of X Universe,*** a two-part series by *Simon Spurrier & Khoi Pham.*

Why would Spidey need armor—and if he did, what kind of armor would he wear? You're about to find out in ***Amazing Spider-Man #656*** by *Dan Slott & Marcos Martin.* Then, in the aftermath of ***Fantastic Four #587's*** shocking revelation, Spidey visits the FF for a very private wake in ***Amazing Spider-Man #657.***

The Silver Surfer! Beta-Ray Bill! Gladiator! Quasar! Ronan! They're all here in ***Annihilators #1,*** a cosmic miniseries by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, Tan Eng Huat, & Timothy Green II.* And if that's not enough Rocket Raccoon and Groot return for their own, new-reader-friendly backup adventure.

Allan Heinberg teams up with legendary artist *Alan Davis* for ***Avengers: The Children's Crusade—Young Avengers #1,*** a standalone tale that's the perfect jumping-on point for new readers. As a result of the Young Avengers' crusade to find the Scarlet Witch, Patriot has become Captain America, Hulkling has become Captain Marvel, and Iron Lad has become the Avengers' new leader, Kang the Conqueror. But the future of these new Avengers is deeply rooted in the untold story of the Young Avengers' very first adventure -- before the events of ***Young Avengers #1.***

Marvel's "Point One Initiative" continues in March with ***Captain America #615.1,*** in which *Ed Brubaker & Mitch Breitweiser* launch the search for a new Captain America; ***Thor #620.1*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Mark Brooks,* featuring the Grey Gargoyle's assault on Asgard; ***Hulk #30.1,*** which introduces a new adversary charged with enacting vengeance on the beast that took the life of Thunderbolt Ross (if only he knew that the beast and Ross are one and the same!); ***Deadpool #32.1,*** in which *Daniel Way & Bong Dazo* present an introduction into the Merc With a Mouth's twisted world; ***Uncanny X-Force #5.1,*** in which Lady Deathstrike sets out the destroy the X-Men in their home.

The shocking ramifications of "The Trial of Captain America" resonate through *Ed Brubaker's* ***Captain America #616.*** The 100-page special issue will also feature a WWII Cap adventure by *Howard Chaykin* and more.

Marvel celebrates the 70th anniversary of Cap's debut with the deluxe ***Captain America Comics #1: 70th Anniversary Edition,*** reprinting the landmark premiere issue by *Joe Simon, Jack Kirby,* and others.

I KNOW YOU WANT TO BE A GOOD INFLUENCE ON THE MOLE MAN...
BUT DO YOU HAVE TO MARRY HIM TO DO THAT?
THINK, SPIDER-MAN... WHAT GREATER THING COULD I EVER ACCOMPLISH IN MY TWILIGHT YEARS?
THEY MAY CALL BEN GRIMM AND ME SUPERHEROES.
BUT IN A WAY, YOU'RE RIGHT UP THERE WITH US!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 12-30
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Sacre bleu! Batroc is back in action in ***Captain America and Batroc,*** a oneshot by *Kieron Gillen & Renato Arlem.*

Cap's assassin stars in his own oneshot in ***Captain America and Crossbones*** by *William Harms & Declan Shalvey.* Can the man who shot Captain America be trusted to rescue the one person who may have a cure to a deadly virus outbreak?

When an old friend's son falls in with gang violence, Sam Wilson must confront his past to save a boy's future – but even a superhero can't save everyone. That won't stop him from trying, however, as you'll see in ***Captain America & Falcon #1*** by *Rob Williams & Rebekah Isaacs.*

Peggy Carter stars in ***Captain America and the First Thirteen,*** a WWII adventure by *Kathryn Immonen & Ramon Perez* set in wartime France.

Steve Rogers' black ops femme fatales go on the hunt for a rogue assassin in ***Captain America and the Secret Avengers,*** a oneshot by *Kelly Sue DeConnick & Greg Tocchini.* The Black Widow & Agent 13 join forces to stop an under-aged assassin from taking her revenge on a killer of a headmistress.

Scott Summers takes on Batroc the Leaper (he's a busy bad boy this month, isn't he?) and the Circus of Crime in ***Cyclops #1,*** a oneshot by *Lee Black & Dean Haspiel.*

Marvel kicks off its CrossGen revival with ***Sigil #1*** by *Mike Carey & Leonard Kirk* and ***Ruse #1*** by *Mark Waid & Mirco Pierfederici.* (For more info, check out the story in this issue of ***CSN.)***

Nancy Butler continues her adaptation of *Jane Austen* classics with the five-part ***Emma,*** illustrated by *Janet Lee.*

In the aftermath of ***Fantastic Four #587's*** fatality, *Jonathan Hickman & Steve Epting* embark on a new direction for Marvel First Family in ***FF #1,*** which features new members, old friends, older enemies, and uneasy alliances.

All the Red Skull's terrible secrets and plans are in the hands of his evil daughter, Sin, who's intent on outdoing her father... Now find out about the Skull's most-dangerous World War II mission, that he risked everything for... and how it's going to tear the Marvel Universe apart. *Ed Brubaker & Scot Eaton's* ***Fear Itself: Prologue*** lays the groundwork for the seven-part series that will reshape the Marvel Universe. (See the feature article elsewhere in this issue for more info on ***Fear Itself.)***

Welcome to 17th century Japan, a time and place of violent upheaval, wandering Ronin, and mysterious Geisha. Into this strange and dangerous world come Wolverine, Pyslocke, Punisher, Hulk and Deadpool. *Peter Milligan's* ***5 Ronin*** 5-part weekly miniseries presents five of Marvel's greatest heroes... as you've never seen them before.

Two founding members of the X-Men embark on a spring break adventure in ***Iceman and Angel #1*** by *Brian Clevinger & Juan Doe.*

The Squadron Supreme succumb to the zombie virus in ***Marvel Zombies Supreme,*** a five-part limited series by *Frank Marrafino & Fernando Blanco.*

In *Brian Bendis & Mike Deodato's* ***New Avengers #10,*** the New Avengers uncover one of the darkest, most well-kept secrets in the history of the Marvel Universe—a secret from Nick Fury's past that reveals the secret origins of the Avengers themselves.

John Rhett Thomas presents a vital guide to *L. Frank Baum's* Oz in the ***Oz Primer,*** which combines character info, history, and interviews with *Eric Shanower & Skottie Young.*

The secrets of John Steele and his link to the Shadow Council are revealed in ***Secret Avengers #11,*** a special two-part World War Two espionage adventure by *Ed Brubaker & Roberto De La Torre.*

Spidey teams up with Mayor Bloomberg in ***Spider-Man: You're Hired,*** a oneshot designed to spotlight the range of New York City's public employment services.

The two most powerful teams in the Ultiverse collide in ***Ultimate Comics Avengers Vs. New Ultimates #2*** by *Mark Millar & Leinil Yu...* and their battle may just spell the end for the Ultimate world!

The Death of Spider-Man? It's coming... and you'll get the first hints of what's coming in ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #155*** by *Brian bendis & Chris Samnee.* Then the Ultimate Ultimate team reunites as *Mark Bagley* returns to the flagship Ultimate title that he and *Brian Bendis* launched a decade ago, as they begin the Death of Spider-Man saga in ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #156.***

Reed Richard's has declared war on science and technology and by doing so he has endangered or murdered some of the most important people in the Ultimate Universe. The only people standing in the way of him completing his mission are what are left of the Fantastic Four. Find out how he deals with them in ***Ultimate Comics Doom #4*** by *Brian Bendis & Rafa Sandoval.*

The X-Men, Namor, and Steve Rogers: Super-Soldier cross paths in a story that begins in ***Uncanny X-Men Annual #3.*** It begins when the X-Men get sucked into the Negative Zone and are held captive by Blastaar. But with the Fantastic Four still reeling from the death in the family, it falls to Steve Rogers to step in and save the mutants.

The new Venom gets his own series, courtesy of *Rick Remender & Tony Moore.* In ***Venom #1,*** you'll meet the villain turned hero turned spy! The lethal alien symbiote known as Venom is in the custody of the U.S. military… and with a familiar face from Spider-Man's world inside the suit, the government's own personal Spidey is going into action as one of the nation's top covert agents in hostile territory!

Wolverine wages war on two fronts in *Jason Aaron & Daniel Acuna's* ***Wolverine #7.*** First, Logan is fighting for his life against the combined might of both Namor and Magneto; at the same time, he's battling to stop a horde of demons from burning him out of his own mind.

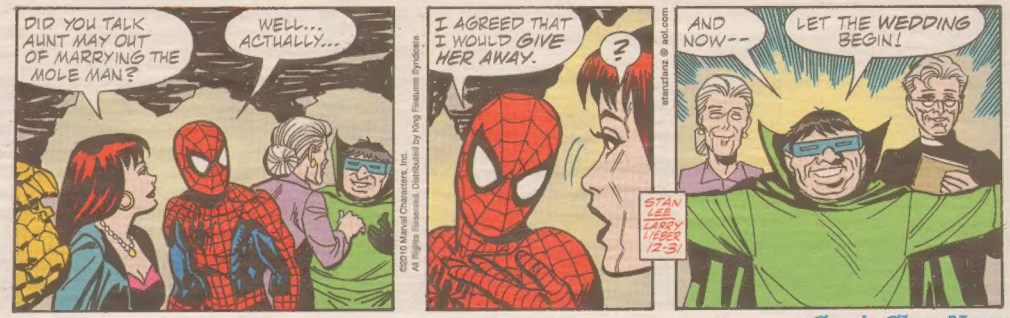
Frank Tieri & Juan Santacruz bring two of Marvel's toughest heroes together in ***Wolverine/Hercules: Myths, Monsters, & Mutants,*** a four-part limited series. Matsuo—the man who killed Yuriko—is back from the dead and has one mission: kill Wolverine. But when he recruits two deadly foes of Hercules, the Olympian joins forces with Logan to shut Matsuo down.

Marvel's $1 reprinting of key tales from the past continues in March with the release of ***Captain America Reborn MGC #1, Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Born MGC #1, Astonishing X-Men MGC #1, Ultimate Spider-Man MGC #1, The Ultimates MGC #1,*** and ***X-23: Innocence Lost MGC #1.***

Marvel collected volumes include:

- ***Age of Heroes TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries and more.
- ***Astonishing X-Men: Xenogenesis Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-part miniseries with bonus material.
- ***Avengers Prime Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-parter by *Brian Bendis & Alan Davis.*
- ***Captain America: American Nightmare Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Captain America (1998) #s 8-13 & Annual 1998.***
- ***Captain America: The Captain TP,*** collecting ***Cap #s 332-350 & Iron Man #228.***
- ***Captain America: The Legacy of Captain America TP,*** collecting select tales from seventy years of Captain America history.
- ***Deadpool Volume 1 HC,*** collecting ***Deadpool #s 1-12*** and ***Thunderbolts #s 130-131.***
- ***Deadpool Volume 5: What Happened in Vegas TP,*** collecting ***Deadpool #s 23-26.***
- ***Deadpool Volume 6: I Rule, You Suck Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Deadpool #s 27-31.***
- ***Deadpool Pulp Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Dr. Strange: Into the Dark Dimension Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Dr. Strange (1974) #s 68-74.***
- ***Essential Captain America Volume 6 TP,*** collecting ***Captain America #s 206-230 & Annual #4*** and ***Incredible Hulk #232.***
- ***Fantastic Four by Jonathan Hickman Volume 3 TP,*** collecting ***FF #s 579-582.***
- ***Fantastic Four: Extended Family TP,*** collecting 232 pages of classic FF adventures.
- ***Girl Comics TP,*** collecting the three-issue miniseries.

- ***Halo: Fall of Reach—Boot Camp Premiere HC,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.
- ***Hawkeye & Mockingbird/Black Widow: Widowmaker TP,*** collecting ***Widowmaker #s 1-4*** and more.
- ***Heralds TP,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries.
- ***Hulk Volume 6: World War Hulks TP,*** collecting ***Hulk #s 22-24.***
- ***Incredible Hulk Volume 3: World War Hulks TP,*** collecting ***Incredible Hulk #s 609-611*** and more.
- ***Iron Man: Industrial Revolution Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Iron Man Legacy #s 6-11.***
- ***Iron Man: Rapture TP,*** collecting the four-part miniseries.


DID YOU TALK AUNT MAY OUT OF MARRYING THE MOLE MAN?
WELL... ACTUALLY...
I AGREED THAT I WOULD GIVE HER AWAY.
?
AND NOW--
LET THE WEDDING BEGIN!
STAN LEE GARY FRIEDRICH 12-31
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•*Klaws of the Panther TP,* collecting the four-part miniseries and more.
•*Marvel Adventures Thor: Bringers of the Storm Digest,* collecting a quartet of all-ages Thor tales.
•*Marvel Masterworks: The Avengers Volume 3 TP,* collecting *The Avengers #s 21-30.*
•*Marvel Masterworks: Iron Fist Volume 1 HC,* collecting *Marvel Premiere #s 15-25* and *Iron Fist #s 1-2.*
•*Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Captain America Volume 5 HC,* collecting *Captain America #s 17-20.*
•*Marvel Zombies 5 TP,* collecting the five-part miniseries.
•*New Mutants: Fall of the New Mutants Premiere HC,* collecting *New Mutants #s 15-21.*
•*Power Pack Classic Volume 3 TP,* collecting *Power Pack (1984) #s 18-26* and *Thor (1968) #363.*
•*Punisher MAX Volume 6 HC,* collecting *Punisher #s 61-74, Force of Nature,* and *Little Black Book.*
•*Secret Warriors Volume 4: Last Ride of the Howling Commandos TP,* collecting *Secret Warriors #s 17-19* and *Siege: Secret Warriors.*
•*Shadowland: Blood on the Streets Premiere HC,* collecting the four-part miniseries.
•*Shadowland: Moon Knight Premiere HC,* collecting the three-part miniseries with bonus material.
•*Shadowland: Power Man Premiere HC,* collecting the four-part miniseries.
•*Skydoll: Spaceship TP,* collecting *Skydoll Spaceship #s 1 & 2* and *Skydoll Lacrima Christi #s 1 & 2.*
•*Spider-Man Newspaper Strips Volume 2 HC,* collecting the daily and Sunday strips from 1/29/79 to 1/11/81.
•*Stephen King's N TP,* collecting the short story adaptation.
•*Strange Tales II HC,* collecting the three-part miniseries.
•*Super Hero Squad: Super Hero Safari GN,* collecting *Super Hero Squad #s 3-7.*
•*Thing Classic Volume 1 TP,* collecting *Thing (1983) #s 1-10.*
•*Thing: Liberty Legion Premiere HC,* collecting *Invaders #s 5 & 6, Marvel Premiere #s 29 & 30, FF Annual #11,* and *Marvel Two-in-One #20 & Annual #1.*
•*Thor: First Thunder TP,* collecting *Thor: First Thunder #s 1-5.*
•*Thor: The Lost Gods TP,* collecting *Journey Into Mystery #s 503-513.*
•*Thor: The Mighty Avenger Volume 2 GN,* collecting *Thor: The Mighty Avenger #s 5-8* and *Journey Into Mystery #s 85-86.*
•*Thunderbolts: Cage TP,* collecting *Thunderbolts #s 144-147* and more.
•*Ultimate Comics New Ultimates: Thor Reborn Premiere HC,* collecting *Ultimate Comics New Ultimates #s 1-5.*
•*Venom by Daniel Way Ultimate Collection TP,* collecting *Venom #s 1-18.*
•*What If? Dark Avengers TP,* collecting December's five *What IF?* oneshots.
•*Wolverine Weapon X Volume 3: Tomorrow Dies Today TP,* collecting *Wolverine Weapon X #s 11-16* and *Dark Reign: The List—Wolverine.*
•*X-Men: First Class Volume 2 GN,* collecting *First Class #s 1, 5-7, & 10,* along with bonus material.
•*X-Men Forever 2 Volume 3: Perfect World TP,* collecting *X-Men Forever 2 #s 11-16.*
•*X-Men Origins II HC,* collecting *Cyclops, Nightcrawler, Iceman, Emma Frost,* and *Deadpool,* along with bonus material.

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in March

American McGee had a mega-hit with *Alice,* and now they're ready with the sequel, *Alice: Madness Returns.* And just in time for the new game's release, Dark Horse has *The Art of Alice: Madness Returns HC,* a 184-page oversized volume spotlighting American's McGee's creation of this magnificent and disturbing world. *Axe Cop* is a webcomic that truly has all-ages appeal—and that may be because its writer is six-year-old *Malachai Nicolle* and its artist is Malachai's thirty-year-old brother *Ethan Nicolle.* Their offbeat and hilarious webcomic makes its debut as an all-new Dark Horse miniseries with the spring release of *Axe Cop: Bad Guy Earth #1.* Axe Cop and his partner Dinosaur Soldier are being treated like bad guys, not only by the police, but by the president and the army, too! But when a pair of nasty villains barge in from outer space and turn the army into actual bad guys, who gets the call to set things right? Axe Cop!

Maurissa Tancharoen, Jed Whedon, & Cliff Richards present the comic book debut of *Joss Whedon's* ***Dollhouse*** in the oneshot ***Dollhouse: Epitaphs.*** And have no doubt that Tancharoen & Whedon know the series well—after all, they're the people who wrote the show's final, post-apocalyptic episode! ***Epitaphs*** continues the tale of three survivors in a world overcome by a devastating technological virus. The wealthy and powerful could buy any kind of companionship at the Dollhouses, where the Rossum Corporation paid young people to have their minds wiped clean and be imprinted with computer-enhanced personalities and skills—all according to a buyer's request. Now the technology has gone viral, wiping the minds of everyone it reached, turning them into mindless butchers. Those who've avoided the call must try to survive their friends and families if they hope to destroy Rossum and save the world.

Felicia Day returns to her Internet and comics sensation with ***The Guild: Tink,*** a oneshot spotlighting the Knights of Good's most mysterious member, Tinkerballa! While some of the other Guild members have gotten a little too involved in each other's offline lives, Tink has fiercely guarded her privacy, and the Knights of Good still know almost nothing about her. When they begin to pry, the Guild gets more than they bargained for—but is any of it true?

The Sky: The Art of Final Fantasy is a five-volume boxed set spotlighting *Yoshitaka Amano's* art for all ten ***Final Fantasy*** games to date! ***Volume 1*** (144 pages) contains Amano's work for ***Final Fantasy I-III; Volume 2*** (276 pages) contains his contributions for ***Final Fantasy IV-VI;*** and ***Volume 3*** (156 pages) features art for ***Final Fantasy VII-X.*** The fourth book in the boxed set, ***All About Yoshitaka Amano,*** is a smaller softcover that includes an interview with Amano, information about his work, a bibliography, and more. Completing the set are an acetate print, two postcards, and a 96-page ***The Sky*** premium flipbook that lets you see two examples of Amano's art in motion. All fit snugly inside a hinged, decorated box.

Dark Horse continues its line of syrocco-style statues based on *Toy Story* with ***Toy Story: Woody's Roundup #2—Bullseye,*** limited to 950 numbered pieces and packaged in its own tin box with a pin-back button and character booklet.

Dark Horse collected editions (advance solicited for May and June release) include:
•***Doctor Solar, Man of the Atom Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the first four stories from the new ***Doctor Solar*** series by *Jim Shooter,* along with the special Free Comic Book Day story.
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•***Little Lulu Volume 27: The Treasure Map & Other Stories TP,*** collecting ***Marge's Little Lulu Giant #s 3 & 4*** by *John Stanley & Irving Tripp.*
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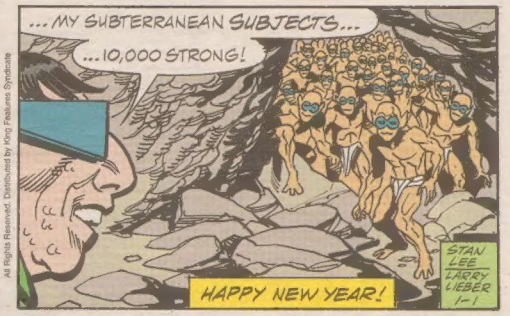

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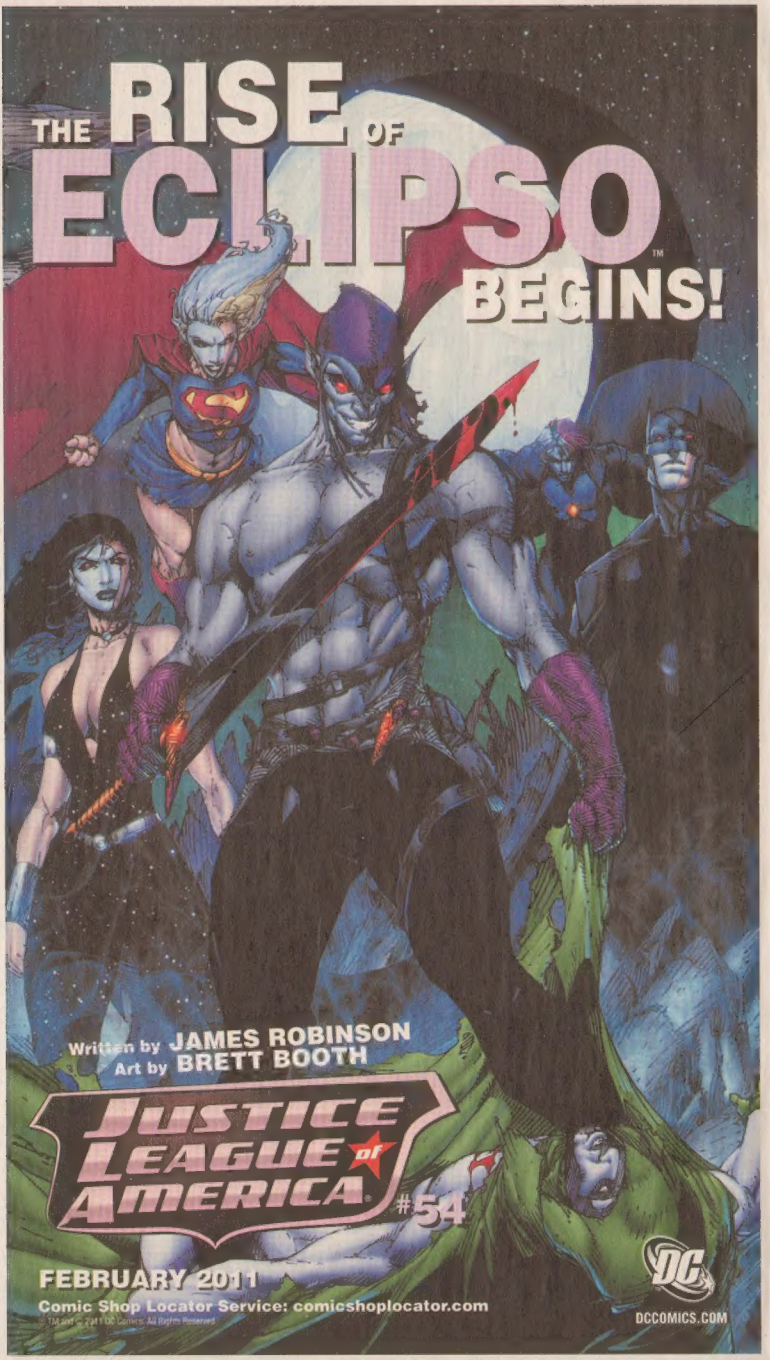

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